

In response to the Office Action dated November 2, 2001, the Applicants wish to submit the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. The Examiner has withdrawn the previous rejections based on the Suzuki patent; but, has rejected all of the pending claims under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by the teachings of the Nakamura patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,403). Applicants respectfully assert that the Nakamura reference does not teach a matrix addressed display device comprising a cathode means, grid electrode means comprising a first plurality of parallel row conductors and a second plurality of parallel column conductors arranged orthogonally to the row conductors; characterized in that the display device further comprises means for providing cut-off correction information to a one of said first or said second plurality of parallel conductors, as is specifically recited in independent Claim 1, and all of the remaining claims which depend therefrom.

Under the present invention, as taught and claimed, cut-off correction information and, optionally, gain correction information as well, is provided to one of a first plurality of parallel conductors (e.g., rows) or a second plurality of parallel conductors (e.g., columns) along with the drive voltage

information which is being provided to those conductors based on the image display desired. As set forth in the teachings found from lines 11-27 on page 12 of the Specification, "[w]hen a particular column driver is not selected, the column grid conductor...is driven to a non-selected voltage, that is a voltage below cut-off" and "when a column driver 502 is selected...[it is] driven to a cut-off voltage" and "[t]he level of drive to the...conductors is determined by the pixel data...and the correction data 516 supplied from...memory. The correction data 516 consists of cut-off and gain corrections."

As further taught in the Specification at page 6, lines 19-23, "[t]he provision of cut-off correction information allows the cut-off of individual rows or columns to be adjusted, so as to reduce luminance variations." The Specification goes on to teach that all of the plurality of conductors can receive the same correction information, as in the "warm up" correction situation taught at page 11, lines 16-18, or each of the plurality of conductors can receive a specific correction value based on its position in the array, as taught in the luminance variation situation taught at page 17, lines 20-25. In either case, all of the plurality of conductors is receiving correction information along with the drive voltage information.

Clearly, therefore, what is being taught and claimed is a method and apparatus whereby not only the image information

For a reference to anticipate claim language under 35 USC §102(b), that reference must teach each and every feature which is recited in the claim. Since the Nakamura reference does not teach means for providing cut-off correction information, nor does it teach that the means provide cut-off correction information to one of the first plurality of parallel conductors or the second plurality of parallel conductors, it cannot be maintained that the Suzuki reference anticipates each and every claim feature. As such, Applicants request that the anticipation rejection based on the teachings of the Nakamura reference be withdrawn.

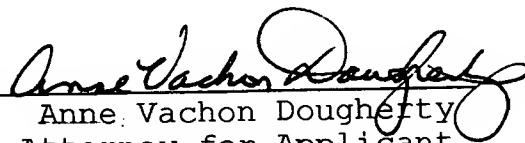
Applicants also point out that the teachings of the Nakamura reference cannot be said to obviate the invention as claimed since the Nakamura teachings do not suggest any signal information or signal components other than the information signals and the cut-off signals. Absent some suggestion, one having skill in the art would not be motivated by the Nakamura patent teachings to include correction information as is explicitly set forth in all of the pending claims.

It is additionally noted that the Nakamura method is directed to alternately applying signals to the odd and even numbered columns. Clearly one would not be motivated by the Nakamura teachings to apply any signal (let alone a correction signal) to all of a plurality of conductors in a row or column. To suggest that the current be applied to all rows or columns

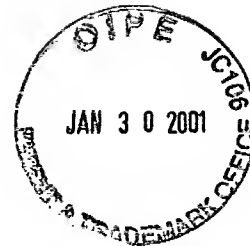
would render the Nakamura teachings unworkable, since applying the signals to all neighboring rows would be inconsistent with the Nakamura teaching of alternate application of voltage to reduce negative effects. Clearly the Nakamura reference does not include any suggestion of such application of information to all rows or all columns. Moreover, since to modify the Nakamura teachings to apply the information to all rows or all columns would make it unworkable, such could not be considered obvious. It is well established under U.S. Patent Law that modification of teachings cannot be considered obvious to one having skill in the relevant art if such modification would render the teachings unworkable for their intended purpose. Clearly, therefore, it cannot be maintained that the teachings of the Nakamura reference obviate the invention as claimed.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of: J. Beeteson, et al

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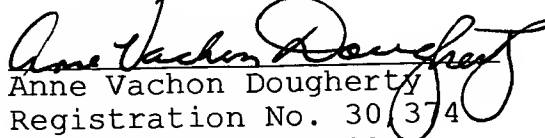
Transmitted herewith is a **Non-Fee Amendment and Petition for Extension of Time for Response** in the above-identified Application.

☒ No additional filing fee is required.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 50-0510**. A **duplicate copy** of this sheet is enclosed.

- X Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR \$1.16.
- X Any patent application processing fee under 37 CFR \$1.17.

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